

Benefits of America's Affordable Health Choices Act in the 18th Congressional District of New York August 2009*

America's Affordable Health Choices Act would help the 18th Congressional District of New York:

- 22,100 small businesses could receive tax credits to provide coverage to their employees;
- 8,800 seniors would avoid the donut hole in Medicare Part D;
- 460 families could escape bankruptcy each year due to unaffordable health care costs;
- 53,000 uninsured individuals would gain high-quality, affordable health insurance; and
- Health care providers would be paid for \$147 million in uncompensated care each year.

Help for small businesses. Up to 22,100 businesses in the district with 25 employees or less and average wages under \$40,000 qualify for tax credits of up to 50% the cost of health insurance.

Help for seniors in Medicare Part D. Each year, 8,800 part D beneficiaries in the district who are forced to pay their full drug costs would receive immediate relief, cutting brand name drug costs in the donut hole by 50%, and ultimately eliminate the donut hole.

Health care and financial security. 460 health care-related bankruptcies in the district in 2008 were caused primarily by health care costs not covered by insurance. The bill provides insurance for almost every American and caps annual out-of-pocket costs at \$10,000.

Paying hospitals and health care providers for services they deliver. In 2008, health care providers in the district provided \$147 million in care to uninsured individuals for which they were not paid. With fewer uninsured patients, our providers would be paid for their services.

Coverage of the uninsured. 73,000 individuals in the district lack insurance. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 97% of Americans, which would mean 53,000 uninsured people in the district, would receive coverage when the bill takes effect.

No deficit spending. The cost of health insurance reform will not add to the federal deficit. Reform is paid for by:

- Eliminating fraud and waste in our health care system;
- Generating savings from the pharmaceutical and insurance industries; and
- A surcharge on income over \$500,000 for individuals and \$1 million for couples, which would affect an estimated 2% of returns from New York's 18th Congressional District. Congresswoman Lowey has fought to protect tens of thousands of families from surcharges in the original House proposal and continues working to ensure small businesses can help their employees access affordable insurance.

This analysis is based upon the following sources: the Gallup-Healthways Survey; the U.S. Census; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; the House Committee on Ways and Means, and various news sources.

*This document will be updated as the legislative process continues.

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